

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A DSS terrestrial-satellite communications network for delivering information to a viewing device without the need for a user to possess additional communications hardware, the network comprising:

means for selecting, acquiring and editing certain information;

a first network computer having memory storage means for storing said information;

a central network computer;

means for transmitting the information from said first network computer to said central network computer;

one or more communication satellites for receiving and transmitting broadcast signals;

uplink means coupling the information from said central network computer to said satellites in the form of said broadcast signals;

downlink means coupling said broadcast signals from said satellites to a receiving antenna situated within said satellite's coverage area;

an IRD connected to said receiving antenna;

said viewing device connected to said IRD via a low-speed serial data port to receive the information, said viewing device

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containing means for displaying the information on said viewing device; and

a memory storage device situated within said viewing device.

5           2.    The network of claim 1 wherein said viewing device is a personal computer.

10           3.    The network of claim 1 wherein said viewing device is a PDA.

15           4.    The network of claim 1 further comprising means for automatically storing said information in said memory storage device.

20           5.    The network of claim 1 wherein said broadcast signals further comprise audio and video DSS signals bundled with the information, said audio and video signals corresponding to a selected television channel.

          6.    The network of claim 5 wherein said IRD further comprises means for extracting the information from said broadcast signals.

          7.    The network of claim 6 wherein the information is

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related to the subject matter of said selected television channel, thereby eliminating the need for separate channel allocation for broadcasting of the information.

5           8. The network of claim 1 further comprising a second network computer for processing, formatting and storing said information.

10           9. The network of claim 1 wherein the information comprises television program guide data.

15           10. The network of claim 9 wherein said program guide data is compiled at one or more repository broadcast centers situated at a location remote from said first network computer, and transmitted to said first network computer.

20           11. The network of claim 10 wherein said program guide data comprises television program information for an entire channel over the course of a predetermined number of hours.

          12. A DSS terrestrial-satellite internet communications network for delivering HTML-formatted information retrieved from the internet to a viewing device without the need for a user to possess additional communications hardware, the network

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comprising:

means for selecting, acquiring and editing certain HTML-formatted information retrieved from the internet;

5 a first network computer having memory storage means for storing said information;

a central network computer;

means for transmitting the information from said first network computer to said central network computer;

10 one or more communication satellites for receiving and transmitting broadcast signals;

uplink means coupling the information from said central network computer to said satellites in the form of said broadcast signals;

15 downlink means coupling said broadcast signals from said satellites to a receiving antenna situated within said satellite's coverage area;

an IRD connected to said receiving antenna;

20 said viewing device connected to said IRD via a low-speed serial data port to receive the information, said viewing device containing means for displaying the information on said viewing device; and

a memory storage device situated within said viewing device.

13. The network of claim 12 wherein said viewing device is

a personal computer.

14. The network of claim 12 wherein said viewing device is a PDA.

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15. The network of claim 12 further comprising means for automatically storing the information on said viewing device's memory storage device.

16. The network of claim 12 wherein said means for displaying said information comprises a browser.

17. The network of claim 12 wherein said broadcast signals further comprise audio and video DSS signals bundled with the information, said audio and video signals corresponding to a selected television channel.

18. The network of claim 17 wherein said IRD further comprises means for extracting the HTML-formatted information from said broadcast signals.

19. The network of claim 18 wherein the information is related to the subject matter of said selected television channel, thereby eliminating the need for separate channel

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allocation for the broadcasting of the information.

20. The network of claim 12 further comprising a second network computer for processing, formatting and storing said information.

21. The network of claim 12 wherein the information further comprises television program guide data.

22. The network of claim 21 wherein said program guide data is compiled at one or more repository broadcast centers situated at a location remote from said first network computer, and transmitted to said first network computer.

23. The network of claim 22 wherein said program guide data comprises television program information for an entire channel over the course of a predetermined number of hours.

24. An IRD incorporated into a DSS terrestrial-satellite communications network, said IRD capable of transmitting received satellite-broadcast signals including data information, said IRD comprising:

- a first port to provide linking means to a television; and
- a second port to provide linking means to a viewing device,

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receiving antenna connected to an IRD;

transmitting said information from said IRD to said viewing device, said viewing device connected to said IRD via a low speed serial data port, said viewing device further including a memory storage device; and

displaying said information on said viewing device via displaying means.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of automatically storing said information on a memory storage device situated within said viewing device.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said broadcast signals comprise audio and video signals bundled with said information, said audio and video signals corresponding to a selected television channel.

31. The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of extracting the information from said broadcast signal.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the information is related to the subject matter of said selected television channel, thereby eliminating the need for separate channel allocation for the broadcasting of said information.



33. The method of claim 32 wherein the information comprises HTML-formatted data retrieved from the internet.

5 34. The method of claim 33 wherein said displaying means comprises a browser.

35. The method of claim 28 wherein the information comprises television program guide data.

36. The method of claim 28 wherein the information comprises television program guide data and HTML-formatted information retrieved from the internet.

15 37. The method of 36 wherein said program guide data is compiled at one or more repository broadcast centers situated at a location remote from said first network comp